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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

JANUARY - 1981

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

January 1981

STATE OF MONTANA

TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR

Volume 11 - Number 1

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of people by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of jobs by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics X-11 variant of the Census Method II seasonal adjustment program.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six economic indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

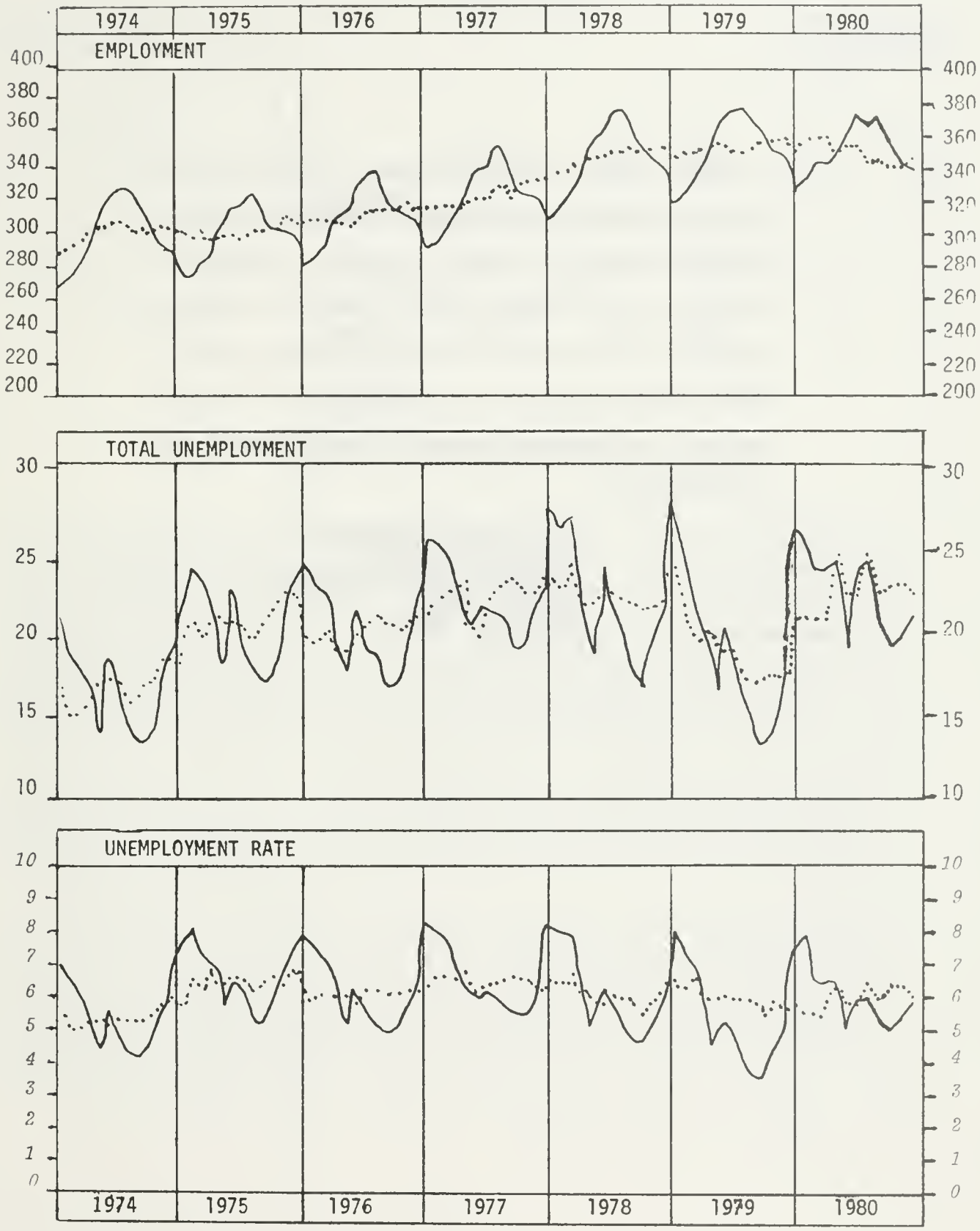
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: . . . .)



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

Bob Rafferty, Supervisor
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Employment Security Division
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

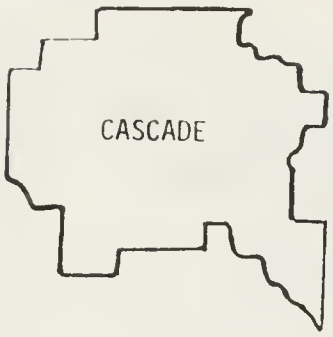
	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	359.6	362.7	364.3	-3.1	-4.7
Employment	336.1	341.8	345.3	-5.7	-9.2
Unemployment	23.5	20.9	19.0	2.6	4.5
Unemployment Rate	6.5	5.8	5.2	.7	1.3

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The condition of the winter wheat crop is still fair to good, but deteriorated slightly during December. The lack of snow cover has allowed the topsoil to dry out and the wind has damaged the crops in some areas. The wheat has started to green up due to the spring-like weather and there is fear of possible winterkill if the temperature drops. Livestock feeding requirements have been eased considerably by the mild weather. This has been especially helpful to the ranchers in the eastern part of the state where feed supplies are limited and high priced. Farmers and ranchers are becoming increasingly concerned over the possible effects later in the year of the limited snowfall thus far.

The state's coal severance tax has been under fire from various sources on the national level during 1980. Montana's legislature is considering a severance tax on hard-rock minerals. The search for petroleum continues throughout the state and has been found in the overthrust belt near Browning. The first producing well in the overthrust belt in the state gives 145 barrels of oil and 50,000 cubic feet of gas daily.

Last year, one major railroad left Montana. More than a quarter of the state's rail system has been abandoned since 1976. The other major railroad has gone to a unit train concept where 26 or 52 cars are loaded at one stop. There are only a few grain elevators in the state that can handle that big of a train. Much of the freight is currently moved by truck or on roads that were never designed for big trucks. A committee has been formed to see if a rural transportation cooperative would be feasible.



Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	32.5	32.8	33.1	-.3	-.6
Employment	30.0	30.3	31.2	-.3	-1.2
Unemployment	2.5	2.5	1.9	--	.6
Unemployment Rate	*7.8*	*7.5*	*5.6*	*.3*	*2.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction work in Great Falls experienced a low last year. During the 6 month period from June through November, 1980 the value of building was nearly $1.6 million less than the same period of 1979. Currently, the mild temperatures are providing jobs for some workers that might normally be laid off because of the weather. Two large projects totaling over $800,000 are in progress. If interest rates are lowered, 1981 could be a much better year. A local company was the apparent low bidder on a $4.8 million project to build a new bridge over the Missouri River in Great Falls. The city commission approved the issuance of two industrial development bonds; one for $3 million to build a new grocery store, and the other of $2.5 million for the remodeling of two downtown buildings into a small shopping mall.

The proposed fuel alcohol plant has received tentative approval of a $200,000 grant from the Montana Department of Natural Resources Renewable Energy Program. The program receives 2.5 percent of the states coal severance tax. Final approval requires action by the Montana Legislature because the funds will come from $2.5 million more that are available through increased coal production that wasn't estimated by the previous legislature.

Schools in the city are facing cutbacks. A drop in population-census figures show that Great Falls has lost 5.8 percent over the last decade-helped cause a loss of 3,334 students in the school district over the last three years. This will mean that some employees of the school system will not be back next year. A business college that was founded over 80 years ago closed because of financial difficulties. On the positive side, however, a new education center at the air force base opened. This facility can be used by everyone in the area, not just military personnel. It will offer graduate degree courses as well as technical courses.

BILLINGS SMSA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	54.7	54.7	56.2	--	-1.5
Employment	52.0	52.5	54.1	-0.5	-2.1
Unemployment	2.7	2.2	2.1	.5	.6
Unemployment Rate	*4.9*	*4.1*	*3.7*	*.8*	*1.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Developments in the construction industry highlight the Billings area during the first few weeks of 1981. Yellowstone County Commissioners approved the 3 million dollar industrial revenue bond so an oil company could build a carbon dioxide liquification plant. The plant will create jobs for one manager, four operators, one maintenance man, and two or three truck drivers. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has given Billings a $147,000 grant to develop a park located near Lake Josephine, which is near South Billings Blvd. A taco business in Billings is planning to expand their operations and open a store in the Heights. There are $2.5 million worth of industrial bonds to construct a grocery and drug store, also in the Heights.

Building permits issued in December in Billings amounted to 93% of the total issued in December, 1979. In December, 1980 permits totaled $1,781,701 compared to $1,920,115 in December, 1979. Permits totaled $54,904,751 for the year 1979, while 1980 had a total of $45,491,742, which is 77% of the 1979 total.

New businesses in the Billings area include a restaurant on Central Avenue, a retail clothing store which will employ 3 persons, and a gold and silver shop, which will employ only a manager. Stores going out of business include two retail clothing stores, a grocery store and a furniture store, leaving about 25 employees without work. A restaurant, gas station, and truck stop combination has closed. It employed 30 people, but plans to find work for most of them in another branch of the company. Other businesses which have closed are a clay products business and an ice cream shop.

The employment picture shows a number of layoffs in other parts of the Billings economy; a printing shop employs only one-third of what they employed three months ago. About 15 employees have been laid off. Two other businesses laid off nearly 25 persons due to a slowdown in business. A construction company has let 15 people go and a modular home building company in Laurel has laid off 55 persons, also due to the slowdown in business.

A study of food prices in Billings indicates nearly a 4% rise in food prices since October 1980. One of the largest increases was in peanut butter. Due to the dry hot weather last summer, peanut prices have sky-rocketed. Sugar is another product which is showing signs of price rises.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	33.7	33.1	33.4	.6	.3
Employment	30.9	30.4	31.6	.5	-.7
Unemployment	2.8	2.7	1.8	.1	1.0
Unemployment Rate	*8.4*	*8.2*	*5.4*	*.2*	*3.0*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Montana Tech's spring semester enrollment has topped that of fall semester for the first time in the school's 81 years. The petroleum engineering department has the largest number of students from the overall 1,732 total enrollment. Because the growth is more than anticipated, classroom shortages and financial problems must be solved.

Anaconda task force will control the $3 million community development fund given by the Anaconda Copper Company. Also, a $100,000 Economical Development Administration Grant was given. Guidelines for spending the fund were drafted by the task force, but the Anaconda Company still must resolve several details before depositing the money locally. The task force plans to set the interest rate on loans at 1 percent below the rate established by the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program. The task force interest rate currently would be 8.25 percent. Thus, the Anaconda area has one more drawing card for industry development-attractive capital.

Foreign competition can be noted for some layoffs that have occurred. Two automotive dealers went out of business, resulting in about 23 jobs losses. Canadian imports have affected sawmill layoffs.

New businesses for 1980 in the six-county area total 341, which compares favorably with 1979's 331 new firms. Deer Lodge and Powell counties had the largest increases in new establishments and Silver Bow carried the bulk with 47 percent of the total. Following the state trend, service and trade industries were the larger expansion areas.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	25.2	25.4	26.2	-.2	-1.0
Employment	23.7	24.1	24.9	-.4	-1.2
Unemployment	1.5	1.3	1.3	.2	.2
Unemployment Rate	*5.9*	*5.1*	*5.1*	*.8*	*.8*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

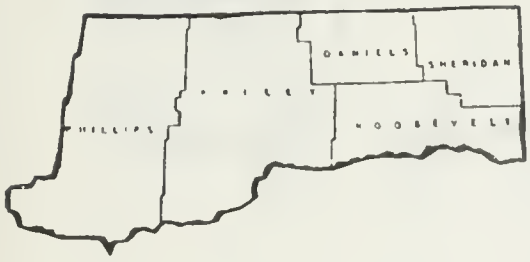
Agricultural activities have been slow. Lack of snowfall and mild temperatures have allowed the grazing of cattle rather than supplemental feeding. The Bozeman Job Service reports that they had no job openings for agriculture workers during the first two weeks of January.

There were 14 building permits, most of them for alterations, issued in Bozeman last month, compared with nine in December of 1979. The value of the December 1980 permits was $790,000, about one-third the value of the permits issued the same month in 1979. A new master plan for guided growth on the periphery of Bozeman was endorsed by the city-county planning board. The plan suggests that about 2,500 acres, with an average density of 3.5 units per acre, will be needed to accomodate a total city population of 42,000. The periphery plan is considered economical because potential annexes can be connected to existing city services. Water supply storage and expanded sewage treatment facilities would possibly be required if services are extended.

Area manufacturing companies are experiencing business slowdown probably due to the high interest rates. The layoffs include: 27 at a food processing plant, about 15 from a concrete block manufacturer, 10 at a sawmill and nine from a sheetmetal firm. A mobile home plant is working short weeks every other week due to lack of orders.

The service industry has been hampered by lack of snow. One ski area estimates a daily loss of revenue to be about $1,700. Only 14 people are working at the area. Normally they would have 154 employees at this time of year.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

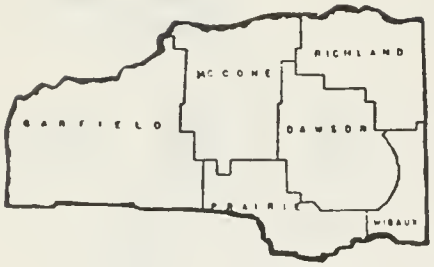
	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	16.5	16.7	16.9	-.2	-.4
Employment	15.7	16.1	16.3	-.4	-.6
Unemployment	.8	.6	.6	.2	.2
Unemployment Rate	*4.5*	*3.8*	*3.3*	*.7*	*1.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Up to 500 workers for a pipeline company may be living at a temporary work camp in Roosevelt County when pipeline work begins. Another crew for the pipeline company will probably be housed near Glasgow. When construction will begin is still not certain, however, work would last approximately seven months. The stockpiling of pipe in Glasgow is to begin in February and workers for other jobs may be hired in March.

An aircraft manufacturer has returned again to an area industrial park and should remain there until Septemebr. Activites will include aircraft testing and the training of several foreign crews. Two new bridges are planned in Valley County and bids for the $275,000 project will be accepted soon. Surveying work for a new power line from Fort Peck to Havre will begin soon. Several surveyors will be hired for approximately 30 days. Work on a 45-unit motel resumed in Wolf Point and layoffs were made by a county road crew, two building contractors, and two ready-mix concrete firms.

Oil drilling and exploration activity continued. Employment in this industry is helping to keep employment levels in retail and service industries above their normal seasonal levels. Layoffs at an area training center will begin at the end of January. Sixty-five employees will eventually lose their jobs.



Employment and Unemployment Situation

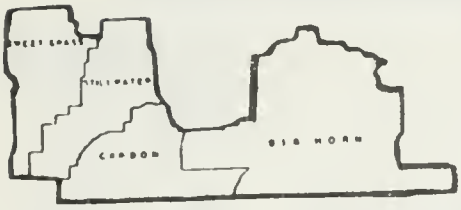
(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	14.4	14.6	14.4	-.2	----
Employment	14.0	14.3	13.9	-.3	.1
Unemployment	.4	.3	.5	.1	-.1
Unemployment Rate	*2.5*	*2.1*	*3.2*	*.4*	*-.7*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The sugar beet campaign at a processing plant in Sidney will draw to a close two weeks earlier than usual. Seventy-five to one hundred seasonal workers will be laid off in January and the total will grow to about 115 in February. A smaller harvest and few problems at the processing plant are the reasons for the plant closing early.

Activity in most industries was stable through the period and little hiring was reported. Construction activity continues, but usually shuts down when the temperature is below freezing. Oil drilling and exploration continued also after crews took a Christmas break. There was little hiring done in these occupations, though an increase in exploration activity is expected this spring. Local Job Service offices continue to report there are many people from western Montana coming to the area looking for oilfield related jobs. Since most of the people have no experience in these occupations, few are hired.



Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	12.7	12.8	12.2	-.1	.5
Employment	12.0	12.2	11.6	-.2	.4
Unemployment	.7	.6	.6	.1	.1
Unemployment Rate	*5.7*	*4.7*	*4.6*	*1.0*	*1.1*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The wool producers in the area are filing during January for the 1980 wool incentive payments. The incentive price for last year is $1.23 per pound of shorn wool, up from $1.15 in 1979. The incentive price for wool in 1981 will be $1.35 per pound.

The new surface coal mine at Spring Creek has begun producing. The first trainload of coal was shipped to a utility company in Texas on December 20th. The coal mine has a 25 year, 181 million ton contract with the utility. The 3015 acre mine has 287 million tons of in-place coal and a 30 year life expectancy. The present work force is 200 employees. At full production, in 1982, the mine should have 250 employees.

An indication of the oil and gas exploration activity in Carbon County is that 425 leases were filed in 1980 compared with 166 in 1979. A wild-cat rig has begun drilling the deepest well in the county as it will test drill to a depth of 13,150 feet in the overthrust belt.

The updated comprehensive plan for Big Horn County projects the need for 550 new dwelling units in Hardin by 1988. Spring Creek would need 498 residential units by 1985. The county area excluding Hardin and Spring Creek will need 30 or 40 additional housing units in the next five years. The updated plan also takes a look at other needs the county will have due to increased population. Hardin has a new sewage treatment facility and is currently updating its water storage, treatment and distribution facilities. A new storm sewer system is in the planning stage for the city. The county is involved in a road service improvement program, which will include acquisition of new equipment and building programs but three one-room schools may require additional facilities. The city county law enforcement staff will probably need to be expanded in the next five years.

The skiing season has not produced the impact on Red Lodge that it normally does. Although the ski area is open because of its machine to make snow, the total number of skiers is down 44% due to the lack of natural snow.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	12.5	12.7	13.0	-.2	-.5
Employment	11.7	12.0	12.3	-.3	-.6
Unemployment	.8	.7	.7	.1	.1
Unemployment Rate	*6.2*	*5.4*	*5.3*	*.8*	*.9*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The emphasis on energy development has meant a marked increase in oil and gas exploration and with it have come industries involved in the transportation of oil and gas and in providing equipment needed to drill for these products. Construction of a 78 mile pipeline to carry northern Montana natural gas to the Midwest is planned. The pipeline would begin in Toole County and run through Liberty and Hill Counties and connect with another pipeline near Havre. The company hopes to have secured all commitments and rights of way by mid 1981 at which time construction would begin. They are also planning continuous exploration and development of over 100,000 acres which they have leased in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline. A Havre company is expanding their role in the energy field with the production of hydraulic gas and oil rigs capable of drilling 6000 feet into the soil. They will offer a pipe trailer, utility trailer and substructure of the rig for about $750,000. All components will be manufactured at the Havre facility.

Two major construction projects are nearing completion; a lumber company is moving into its new facility and the college library is almost finished. Construction of a new building for a local food store is expected to begin in early April. Plans for a youth center are also in the works. The facility will hold a gym and a large recreation hall. A laundry, which also houses an ice cream parlor and a game room, held its grand opening during this period.

Layoffs have been noted in the construction and retail trade areas due to seasonal downturn. Aguriculture activity remains slow as no snow and cold weather allow the cattle to forage.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	27.0	27.1	27.5	-.1	-.5
Employment	25.5	25.8	26.1	-.3	-.6
Unemployment	1.5	1.3	1.4	.2	.1
Unemployment Rate	*5.5*	*4.8*	*5.0*	*.7*	*.5*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Livestock have excellent winter grazing as the mild winter continues to leave the lowland free of snow. The reduced use of supplemental feeding, while helping ranchers lower their costs, has decreased the demand for agriculture workers in the area.

Builders who have a project started have been able to continue working during January. Construction, however, has been off during 1980 and new projects are being delayed because of the high interest rates. Three new shopping malls are being planned and at least one has asked for an extension on its conditional use permit that was granted one year ago. A proposed $6.8 million renovation of the state capitol building is currently undergoing a $35,000 historical assessment study.

A food processing plant in Lewis and Clark County moved into a new plant in late summer of 1979. Production and sales have continued to climb since that time. The firm has over 20 employees and a fleet of six trucks which deliver to a six state area of the Northwest. The plant also ships its products to 100 distributors throughout the nation and has just begun shipping to Canada on a test market basis.

The legislators who have come to Helena for their biennial session have asked for an increase in their per diem allowance from $40 to $45. They find the cost of living in the capitol city to be higher than most other places in the state. A recent survey, conducted nationally, confirms the legislators opinion. Using 100 as the national average the survey finds the cost in Helena above average in: housing 111.3, health care 111.5, food 108.1, and miscellaneous services 107.9. Utility costs are lower than the national average at 63.0. The survey found that Helena was the second most expensive place in the state to live.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	39.4	40.0	39.2	-0.6	0.2
Employment	35.9	36.8	36.2	-0.9	-0.3
Unemployment	3.5	3.2	3.0	.3	0.5
Unemployment Rate	*9.0*	*7.9*	*7.7*	*1.1*	*1.3*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Kalispell LMA, with all its lumber industries, continues to be hurt by high interest rates and a sagging economy. Most all of the lumber mills have gone to one-week-on and one-week-off shifts. The mills plan to increase production only when orders improve and necessitate the output. One mill in Columbia Falls and Kalispell will have 500 employees affected by flip-flopping weeks, which will increase the claims by that amount. An alluminum plant in Columbia Falls has laid off 24 seasonal workers.

A wood pellet plant may locate in Eureka. The plant would operate 24 hours per day and run three shifts. Employment would include three to four workers per shift in addition to the clerical and administrative staff. Many truck drivers would also be needed. The company would make pellets both to sell and to use in their own gas turbine that would produce energy to sell.

Funding for a re-regulating dam on the Kootenai river, just below the Libby dam, was included in President Carter's last budget. The budget included $14.6 million to construct the re-reg dam and to add units to the existing dam's powerhouse. Before anything can happen, this has to go through the congressional authorization and appropriation process.

A motel convention center in Kalispell is planning to construct an office building, along with the expansion of the motel, as announced last summer. Unseasonable weather has allowed outdoor construction work to continue in some areas.

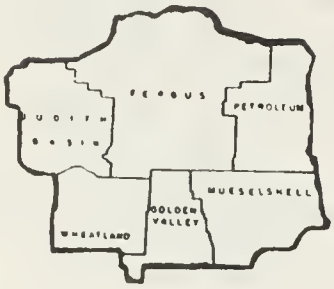
In the manufacturing sector, a beehive manufacturing plant has added six or more employees to their payrolls to fill orders. A wood stove manufacturing plant has laid off all but its employees on salaries. A lack of orders and parts were the reasons for the layoffs. Layoffs totaled about forty.

Two department stores have closed their doors as of December 24th. Together they employed 50 persons. A small company in Ravalli which manufactures sports equipment has closed its doors. Lack of orders and cost of doing business were given as reasons.

KALISPELL LMA (cont.)

In the retail industry, there are a lot of inventory reduction sales going on. No new hires are reported, but holiday help will be laid off after the sales are over. A postal service reports heavy layoffs, as their employees who were hired for the busy holiday season as sorters, clerks, and relief drivers, are no longer needed. Due to the lack of snow, one ski resort may be forced to close. This is a major seasonal employer and would affect 125 employees.

The employment outlook,according to one report, shows employment opportunities for women because of the continued growth in the service industry. On the other hand, no work is available in the traditional line of employment for males. This is mostly due to the lumber industry slowdown.



Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

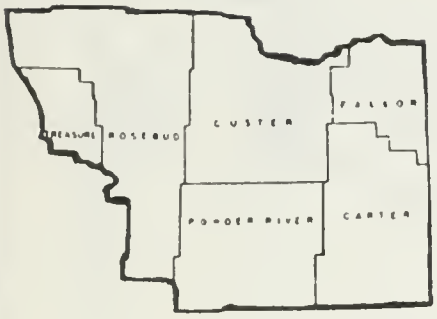
	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	10.1	10.5	10.4	-.4	-.3
Employment	9.7	10.0	10.1	-.3	-.4
Unemployment	.4	.5	.3	-.1	.1
Unemployment Rate	*4.5*	*4.7*	*3.3*	*-.2*	*1.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Seasonal lay-offs increased in several industries this period. Retail-trade employees hired for the Christmas season were laid off and numerous employees of area sawmills lost their jobs as mills shut down temporarily. Cold weather and a lack of contracts forced road and building contractors to lay off workers. The weather has not been severe enough to shut down all construction, though, as several commercial building and residential projects continued through the period. An area brickyard, which had been closed for several months, started up operations this period and called back 5 employees. Five or six other employees are expected to be called back soon.

Even with the layoffs reported this period the outlook for the area economy is not all bad. The overall unemployment rate for the LMA has remained relatively stable - due mostly to agriculture - and employers report little turnover among employees.. Though employment in construction occupations has dropped in recent months, several contractors do have projects to keep them busy until summer.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	14.9	15.0	14.6	-.1	.3
Employment	14.2	14.4	14.0	-.2	.2
Unemployment	.7	.6	.6	.1	.1
Unemployment Rate	*4.9*	*3.9*	*4.0*	*1.0*	*.9*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Milwaukee Road has not decided whether it will seek to scrap service between Miles City and Minnesota's Twin City area. The 677 mile line was not included in the "core" system presented to the Interstate Commerce Commission that showed lines that the railroad wanted to retain. A decision on whether the Miles City branch will be abandoned may be made on the basis of a feasibility study that will be available during the first quarter of 1981.

Construction slowing down can be noted, especially in the Colstrip area. Power plant construction is about 40% of the fall peak work force. Service and trade industries have been forced to reduce their staff because of the decline in construction activity. A variety merchandise store in Miles City is closing their doors and laying off about 15 employees.

A coal mining associated labor dispute started in mid-January in Colstrip. About ninety workers are involved, with the main issues being pay increases and benefits.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	50.0	50.8	50.8	-.8	-.8
Employment	45.9	47.2	47.3	-.3	-1.4
Unemployment	4.1	3.6	3.5	.5	.6
Unemployment Rate	*8.3*	*7.1*	*6.9*	*1.2*	*1.4*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A second powerhouse for a power company dam at Thompson Falls is in the planning stages. Besides the increased electric generating capacity, several advantages to the community were noted: 1) a new low bridge at Thompson Falls; 2) a new public riverside park on power company land; 3) a more stabilized pond level; and 4) a large increase in the tax base. Nineteen eighty-four is projected to be the start of construction. It's then scheduled to go on line in 1987. The old plant would remain in full operation during and after construction.

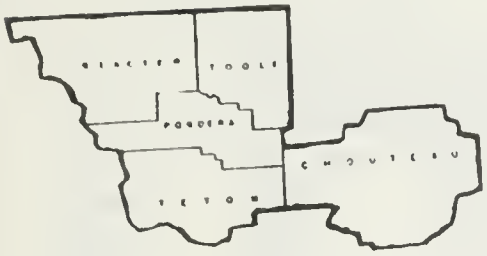
A Missoula economic development group will seek funding through a mill levy. The group was formed last August to attract new businesses to the area and ultimately to diversify the economic base of Missoula. The request for the levy is expected to be on the April ballot.

The outgoing governor proposed to the legistature several major state construction projects. Included in the recommendations were a $4.5 million fine arts building at the university in Missoula and a Job Service building in Hamilton. He also proposed an increase in the cigarette tax to help fund the states long-range building plans. It is not known whether or not the new governor's building recommendations will be the same.

The lumber and woods products industries have been plagued with high interest rates and few construction projects for about the last year. Local mills have experienced temporary shutdowns and a variety of alternate work schedules, three day weeks and working every other week. Due to continued market uncertainty, local firms are taking a wait and see attitude regarding their future plans.

Mild weather has permitted construction on a $1.5 million office building to progress ahead of schedule at its uptown Missoula site. There were 10 other commercial building permits issued in Missoula in December with a combined dollar worth of $700,000. The construction of a power company office building is progressing on schedule.

SHELBY - CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	16.1	16.5	16.6	-0.4	-0.5
Employment	15.1	15.6	15.7	-0.5	-0.6
Unemployment	1.0	.9	.9	0.1	0.1
Unemployment Rate	*6.3*	*5.2*	*5.3*	*1.1*	*1.0*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Activity in the Shelby - Cut Bank area appears to be relatively steady. A new restaurant and lounge is to open in the Cut Bank shopping center soon. Twenty-five trainees are completing training for this business. A new tire and repair shop has opened in Shelby. The fair and mild weather in the area has allowed outdoor work to continue on construction projects.

Oilfield activity remains steady with seismic crews in several locations and drilling activity continues with an influx of Canadian oil rigs. The retail industry reports an above average holiday season and businesses are optimistic about the 1981 business year.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

December, 1980

Social Characteristics	Percent of Total Insured Unemployment		
	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
Non-White	14.4%	13.4%	15.9%
Female	18.1%	24.1%	23.4%
Youth	4.8%	8.0%	6.8%
Over 45	23.2%	22.6%	21.2%

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S. 1/

All Items

(1967 = 100)

	1978		1979		1980	
	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W
January	187.2	187.1	204.7	204.7	233.2	233.3
February	188.4	188.4	207.1	207.1	236.4	236.5
March	189.8	189.7	209.1	209.3	239.8	239.9
April	191.5	191.4	211.5	211.8	242.5	242.6
May	193.3	193.3	214.1	214.3	244.9	245.1
June	195.3	195.3	216.6	216.9	247.6	247.8
July	196.7	196.7	218.9	219.4	247.8	248.0
August	197.8	197.7	221.1	221.5	249.4	249.6
September	199.3	199.1	223.4	223.7	251.7	251.9
October	200.9	200.7	225.4	225.6	253.9	254.1
November	202.0	201.8	227.5	227.6	256.2	256.4
December	202.9	202.9	229.9	230.0	258.4	258.7
AVERAGE	195.4	195.3	217.4	217.7	246.8	247.0

1/ *The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices of goods and services in major expenditure groups. The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) covers about 40 percent of the total noninstitutional population. The CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) covers about 80 percent of the total noninstitutional population, including wage earners and clerical workers, salaried workers, the self-employed, retirees, and the unemployed.*

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1979								
January	348.8	320.8	299.5	21.3	28.0	*8.0*	*6.4*	*
February	347.9	323.2	300.0	23.2	24.7	*7.1*	*6.4*	1.8
March	353.2	330.7	302.9	27.8	22.5	*6.4*	*6.1*	*
April	363.5	343.4	309.1	34.2	20.2	*5.6*	*5.5*	*
May	372.0	355.3	320.0	35.3	16.7	*4.5*	*5.2*	*
June	390.6	370.4	330.2	40.2	20.2	*5.2*	*6.0*	*
July	390.6	372.4	329.4	43.0	18.2	*4.7*	*5.8*	*
August	391.5	376.0	330.0	46.0	15.5	*4.0*	*5.9*	*
September	380.8	367.5	331.6	35.9	13.3	*3.5*	*5.6*	*
October	371.1	357.3	326.8	30.5	13.8	*3.7*	*5.6*	*
November	365.5	349.8	323.6	26.2	15.7	*4.3*	*5.6*	*
December	364.3	345.3	322.7	22.6	19.0	*5.2*	*5.6*	*
Avg.	370.0	351.0	318.8	32.2	19.0	*5.1*	*5.8*	.2
1980								
January	348.8	322.4	301.6	20.8	26.4	*7.6*	*6.8*	*
February	353.6	328.7	306.1	22.6	24.9	*7.0*	*6.8*	1.1
March	364.3	340.5	313.3	27.2	23.8	*6.5*	*6.6*	.7
April	373.1	348.7	315.3	33.4	24.4	*6.5*	*6.6*	.3
May	378.3	359.3	324.9	34.4	19.0	*5.0*	*7.0*	.2
June	396.3	372.6	333.4	39.2	23.7	*6.0*	*7.8*	.2
July	392.4	368.3	326.3	42.0	24.1	*6.1*	*7.9*	2.7
August	392.3	371.7	326.8	44.9	20.6	*5.3*	*7.5*	3.1
September	377.2	358.0	323.0	35.0	19.2	*5.1*	*7.1*	3.1
October	366.1	346.6	316.8	29.8	19.5	*5.3*	*7.1*	1.3
November	362.7	341.8	316.2	25.6	20.9	*5.8*	*7.1*	1.3
December	359.6	336.1	314.1	22.0	23.5	*6.5*	*6.9*	*
Avg.	372.1	349.6	318.2	31.4	22.5	*6.1*		1.2
1981								
January	*346.6*	*320.0*	*299.2*	*20.8*	*26.6*	*7.7*		*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1979								
January	33.5	30.4	29.6	.8	3.1	*9.3*	*8.0*	*
February	33.1	30.4	29.5	.9	2.7	*8.1*	*7.1*	*
March	33.4	31.0	29.9	1.1	2.4	*7.3*	*6.4*	*
April	33.8	31.7	30.3	1.4	2.1	*6.3*	*5.6*	*
May	34.2	32.4	31.0	1.4	1.8	*5.3*	*4.5*	*
June	35.8	33.3	31.7	1.6	2.5	*6.9*	*5.2*	*
July	35.2	33.1	31.4	1.7	2.1	*6.1*	*4.7*	*
August	34.9	33.0	31.2	1.8	1.9	*5.3*	*4.0*	*
September	34.4	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.6	*4.6*	*3.5*	*
October	33.6	32.0	30.8	1.2	1.6	*4.7*	*3.7*	*
November	33.5	31.7	30.7	1.0	1.8	*5.3*	*4.3*	*
December	33.1	31.2	30.3	.9	1.9	*5.6*	*5.2*	*
Avg.	34.0	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.1	*6.2*	*5.1*	*
1980								
January	32.2	29.5	28.7	.8	2.7	*8.3*	*7.6*	*
February	32.0	29.6	28.7	.9	2.4	*7.5*	*7.0*	*
March	33.0	30.8	29.7	1.1	2.2	*6.8*	*6.5*	*
April	33.1	30.9	29.6	1.3	2.2	*6.7*	*6.5*	*
May	33.5	31.7	30.3	1.4	1.8	*5.4*	*5.0*	.2
June	35.0	32.4	30.8	1.6	2.6	*7.3*	*6.0*	.2
July	34.9	32.2	30.5	1.7	2.7	*7.6*	*6.1*	.5
August	34.4	32.1	30.3	1.8	2.3	*6.6*	*5.3*	.4
September	33.8	31.7	30.5	1.2	2.1	*6.2*	*5.1*	.4
October	32.5	30.1	28.9	1.2	2.4	*7.3*	*5.3*	*
November	32.8	30.3	29.3	1.0	2.5	*7.5*	*5.8*	*
December	32.5	30.0	29.0	1.0	2.5	*7.8*	*6.5*	*
Avg.	33.3	30.9	29.6	1.3	2.4	*7.1*	*6.1*	.1
1981								
January	*32.2*	*29.6*	*28.8*	.8	*2.6*	*8.3*		*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1979								
January	53.2	50.0	49.0	1.0	3.2	*6.1*	*8.0*	*
February	52.8	50.1	49.0	1.1	2.7	*5.1*	*7.1*	*
March	53.1	50.7	49.4	1.3	2.4	*4.5*	*6.4*	*
April	54.1	52.1	50.5	1.6	2.0	*3.8*	*5.6*	*
May	54.8	53.1	51.5	1.6	1.7	*3.1*	*4.5*	*
June	56.8	54.7	52.9	1.8	2.1	*3.7*	*5.2*	*
July	57.1	55.2	53.2	2.0	1.9	*3.3*	*4.7*	*
August	56.9	55.2	53.1	2.1	1.7	*2.9*	*4.0*	*
September	57.1	55.6	54.0	1.6	1.5	*2.5*	*3.5*	*
October	55.9	54.5	53.1	1.4	1.4	*2.6*	*3.7*	*
November	56.1	54.3	53.1	1.2	1.8	*3.1*	*4.3*	*
December	56.2	54.1	53.1	1.0	2.1	*3.7*	*5.2*	*
Avg.	55.3	53.3	51.8	1.5	2.0	*3.7*	*5.1*	*
1980								
January	55.0	51.9	50.9	1.0	3.1	*5.6*	*7.6*	*
February	55.6	52.5	51.5	1.0	3.1	*5.6*	*7.0*	.7
March	56.6	53.6	52.4	1.2	3.0	*5.3*	*6.5*	.3
April	56.6	54.0	52.5	1.5	2.6	*4.5*	*6.5*	*
May	56.5	54.4	52.8	1.6	2.1	*3.7*	*5.0*	*
June	58.7	55.8	54.0	1.8	2.9	*5.0*	*6.0*	*
July	58.3	55.4	53,5	1.9	2.9	*5.0*	*6.1*	*
August	57.3	54.8	52.7	2.1	2.5	*4.5*	*5.3*	*
September	56.1	53.7	52.3	1.4	2.4	*4.3*	*5.1*	*
October	54.4	52.1	50.7	1.4	2.3	*4.2*	*5.3*	*
November	54.7	52.5	51.3	1.2	2.2	*4.1*	*5.8*	*
December	54.7	52.0	51.0	1.0	2.7	*4.9*	*6.5*	*
Avg.	56.2	53.6	52.2	1.4	*2.6*	*4.7*	*6.1*	.1
1981								
January	*54.4*	*50.9*	*49.9*	*1.0*	*3.5*	*6.5*		*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	359.6	362.7	364.3	-3.1	-4.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	336.1	341.8	345.3	-5.7	-9.2
Persons Employed in Agriculture	22.0	25.6	22.6	3.6	-.6
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	23.5	20.9	19.0	2.6	4.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*6.5*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*.7*	*1.3*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*6.°*	*6.0*	*4.9*	*.2*	*1.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	282.0	282.8	285.3	-.8	-3.3
MANUFACTURING	23.6	23.9	26.5	-.3	-2.9
Durable Goods	14.3	14.5	17.0	-.2	-2.7
24 Lumber and Wood Products	9.3	9.4	10.5	-.1	-1.2
33 Primary Metal Industries	1.9	1.9	3.1	0	-1.2
Other Durable Goods	3.1	3.2	3.4	-.1	-.3
Nondurable Goods	9.4	9.4	9.5	0	-.1
20 Food and Kindred Products	4.3	4.3	4.4	0	-.1
27 Printing and Publishing	2.3	2.3	2.4	0	-.1
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	.1
MINING	7.8	6.7	8.2	1.1	-.5
10 Metal Mining	1.7	.5	2.2	1.2	-.5
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	2.2	2.3	2.2	-.1	0
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	3.9	3.9	3.8	0	.1
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	14.1	16.3	14.8	-2.1	-.7
15 General Building Contractors	14.7	5.3	5.2	-.6	-.5
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	3.5	4.8	3.5	-1.3	0
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.9	6.2	6.1	-.3	-.2
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	23.2	23.2	23.1	0	.1
40 Railroad Transportation	6.9	6.9	7.1	0	.2
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.5	6.5	7.0	0	-.5
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	9.8	9.8	9.0	0	.8
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	72.7	72.2	74.6	.5	-1.9
Wholesale Trade	17.6	17.8	17.6	-.3	0
Retail Trade	55.1	54.4	51.0	.7	-1.9
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	8.6	8.1	9.4	.5	-.8
54 Food Stores	7.7	7.7	8.0	0	-.3
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	7.8	7.9	8.2	-.1	-.4
58 Eating and Drinking Places	19.7	19.7	19.6	0	.1
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	11.2	11.0	11.7	.2	-.5
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	12.9	12.8	12.8	.1	.1
SERVICES	56.2	56.0	53.8	.2	2.4
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.1	6.0	6.1	.1	0
72 Personal Services	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	.1
80 Medical and other Health Services	18.7	18.7	17.9	0	.8
Other Services	28.7	28.6	27.3	.1	1.4
GOVERNMENT	71.5	71.7	71.5	-.2	0
91 Federal Government	13.5	13.9	13.2	-.4	.3
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.2	8.2	8.2	0	0
92 Other State Government	10.7	10.9	10.6	-.2	.1
93 Local Education	24.7	24.6	25.2	.1	-.5
93 Other Local Government	14.4	14.1	14.3	.3	.1

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(Establishment Data in italics)

TABLE V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS 1/	32.5	32.8	33.1	-.3	-.6
EMPLOYED PERSONS	30.0	30.3	31.2	-.3	-1.2
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.0	1.0	.9	0	.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.5	2.5	1.9	0	.6
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted2/	*7.8*	*7.5*	*5.6*	*.3*	*2.2*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted2/	*7.7*	*7.6*	*5.5*	*.1*	*2.5*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	29.4	29.5	29.3	-.1	.1
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.7	0	-.4
Contract Construction	1.4	1.8	1.6	-.4	-.2
Transportation and Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	-.1
Trade	9.7	9.6	9.8	.1	-.1
Wholesale Trade	3.0	2.9	2.9	.1	.1
Retail Trade	6.7	6.6	6.9	.1	-.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.0	2.0	2.1	0	-.1
Services and Mining	7.0	6.9	6.6	.1	.4
Government	6.1	6.1	5.6	0	.5
Federal Government	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
State and Local Government	4.3	4.3	3.8	0	.5

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary *Revised to 1979 Benchmarks*

TABLE VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	54.7	54.7	56.2	0	-1.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	52.0	52.5	54.1	-.5	-2.1
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.0	1.2	1.0	-.2	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.7	2.2	2.1	.5	.6
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*4.9*	*4.1*	*3.7*	*.8*	*1.2*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.6*	*4.5*	*3.4*	*.1*	*1.2*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	48.4	48.4	47.8	0	.6
Manufacturing	4.3	4.3	4.5	0	-.2
Contract Construction	2.5	2.6	2.7	-.1	-.2
Transportation and Public Utilties	4.8	4.9	4.8	-.1	0
Trade	16.3	16.1	16.3	.2	0
Wholesale Trade	5.8	5.7	5.5	.1	.3
Retail Trade	10.5	10.4	10.8	.1	-.3
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Services and Mining	10.2	10.2	9.7	0	.5
Government	8.0	7.8	7.4	.1	.6
Federal Government	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	.1
State and Local Government	6.5	6.4	5.9	.1	.6

[1] *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

[2] *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary *Revised to 1979 Benchmarks*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1980
STATEWIDE	366.1	362.7	359.6	346.6	341.8	336.1	19.5	20.9	23.5	*5.3*	*5.8*	*6.5*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	32.5	32.8	32.5	30.1	30.3	30.0	2.4	2.5	2.5	*7.3*	*7.5*	*7.8*
BILLINGS SMSA	54.4	54.7	54.7	52.1	52.5	52.0	2.3	2.2	2.7	*4.2*	*4.1*	*4.9*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	279.2	275.3	272.4	264.4	259.1	254.2	14.8	16.2	18.2	*5.3*	*5.9*	*6.7*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	34.4	33.1	33.7	31.9	30.4	30.9	2.5	2.7	2.8	*7.3*	*8.2*	*8.4*
BOZEMAN	25.8	25.4	25.2	24.6	24.1	23.7	1.2	1.3	1.5	*4.6*	*5.1*	*5.9*
GLASGOW	17.2	16.7	16.5	16.6	16.1	15.7	.6	.6	.8	*3.7*	*3.8*	*4.5*
GLENDIVE	15.1	14.6	14.4	14.8	14.3	14.0	.3	.3	.4	*2.3*	*2.1*	*2.5*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.0	12.8	12.7	12.4	12.2	12.0	.6	.6	.7	*4.6*	*4.7*	*5.7*
HAVRE	12.9	12.7	12.5	12.3	12.0	11.7	.6	.7	.8	*4.8*	*5.4*	*6.2*
HELENA	27.2	27.1	27.0	26.0	25.8	25.5	1.2	1.3	1.5	*4.6*	*4.8*	*5.5*
KALISPELL	39.9	40.0	39.4	37.1	36.8	35.9	2.8	3.2	3.5	*7.1*	*7.9*	*9.0*
LEWISTOWN	10.7	10.5	10.1	10.4	10.0	9.7	.3	.5	.4	*3.0*	*4.7*	*4.5*
MILES CITY	15.3	15.0	14.9	14.8	14.4	14.2	.5	.6	.7	*3.3*	*3.9*	*4.9*
MISSOULA	50.8	50.8	50.0	47.4	47.2	45.9	3.4	3.6	4.1	*6.7*	*7.1*	*8.3*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.9	16.5	16.1	16.2	15.6	15.1	.7	.9	1.0	*3.9*	*5.2*	*6.3*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Percent Change 1979-1980	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Percent Change 1979-1980	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Change 1979-1980	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Net Change 11979-1980
STATEWIDE	359.6	364.3	-1.3	336.1	345.3	-2.7	23.5	19.0	4.5	*6.5*	*5.2*	*1.3*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	32.5	33.1	-1.8	30.0	31.2	-3.8	2.5	1.9	.6	*7.8*	*5.6*	*2.2*
BILLINGS SMSA	54.7	56.2	-2.7	52.0	54.1	-3.9	2.7	2.1	.6	*4.9*	*3.7*	*1.2*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	274.2	275.1	-1.0	254.2	260.0	-2.2	18.2	15.1	1.0	*6.7*	*5.5*	*1.2*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	33.7	33.4	-2.1	30.9	31.6	-2.2	2.8	1.8	1.0	*8.4*	*5.4*	*3.0*
BOZEMAN	25.2	26.2	-3.8	23.7	24.9	-4.8	1.5	1.3	.2	*5.9*	*5.1*	*.8*
GLASGOW	16.5	16.9	-2.4	15.7	16.3	-3.7	.8	.6	.2	*4.5*	*3.3*	*1.2*
GLENDIVE	14.4	14.4	0	14.0	13.9	0.7	.4	.5	-.1	*2.5*	*3.2*	*-.7*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.7	12.2	4.1	12.0	11.6	3.4	.7	.6	.1	*5.7*	*4.6*	*1.1*
HAVRE	12.5	13.0	-3.8	11.7	12.3	-4.9	.8	.7	.1	*6.2*	*5.3*	*.9*
HELENA	27.0	27.5	-1.8	25.5	26.1	-2.3	1.5	1.4	.1	*5.5*	*5.9*	*.5*
KALISPELL	39.4	39.2	0.5	25.9	36.2	-.8	3.5	3.0	.5	*9.0*	*7.7*	*1.3*
LEWISTOWN	10.1	10.4	-2.9	9.7	10.1	-4.0	.4	.3	.1	*4.5*	*3.3*	*1.2*
MILES CITY	14.9	14.6	2.1	14.2	14.0	1.4	.7	.6	.1	*4.9*	*4.0*	*.9*
MISSOULA	50.0	50.8	-1.6	45.9	47.3	-3.0	4.1	3.5	.6	*8.3*	*6.9*	*1.4*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.1	16.6	-3.0	15.1	15.7	-4.1	1.0	.9	.1	*6.3*	*5.3*	*1.0*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.

2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

3/ Unemployment Rate calculated from (whole) unrounded numbers.

TABLE IX-A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA — DECEMBER 1990

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	359582	336133	23449	6.5
BEAVERHEAD	5677	5201	476	8.4
BIG HORN	6180	5796	384	6.2
BLAINE	2915	2665	250	8.6
BROADWATER	1480	1372	108	7.3
CARBON	2988	2828	160	5.4
CARTER	692	669	14	2.1
CASCADE	2606	2510	96	3.7
CHOUTEAU	5954	5660	294	4.9
DANIELS	1253	1222	31	2.5
DAWSON	5433	5246	187	3.4
DEER LODGE	5065	4189	876	17.3
FALLON	2344	2311	33	1.4
FERGUS	5711	5394	317	5.6
FLATHEAD	24315	22326	1989	8.2
GALLATIN	18455	17458	997	5.4
GARFIELD	672	660	12	1.8
GLACIER	5047	4487	560	11.1
GOLDEN VALLEY	316	305	11	3.5
GRANITE	967	885	82	8.5
HILL	8535	8042	493	5.8
JEFFERSON	2137	1960	177	8.3
JUDITH BASIN	949	908	41	4.3
LAKE	7950	7360	590	7.4
LEWIS AND CLARK	23405	22205	1200	5.1
LIBERTY	1001	968	33	3.3
LINCOLN	7145	6196	949	13.3
MCCONE	1042	1023	19	1.8
MADISON	2190	2048	142	6.5
MEAGHER	1066	1003	63	5.9
MINERAL	1966	1701	165	8.8
MISSOULA	35717	34007	2710	7.4
MUSSELSHELL	1881	1332	49	2.6
PARK	5646	5210	436	7.7
PETROLEUM	262	254	8	3.1
PHILLIPS	2804	2646	158	5.6
PONDERA	3299	3150	149	4.5
POWDER RIVER	1056	1009	47	4.5
POWELL	2891	2722	169	5.8
PRAIRIE	704	667	37	5.3
RAVALLI	7769	6893	876	11.3
RICHLAND	5810	5718	92	1.6
ROOSEVELT	5267	5027	240	4.6
ROSEBUD	4482	4154	328	7.3
SANDERS	3642	3266	376	10.3
SHERIDAN	2871	2313	58	2.0
SILVER BOW	18779	17405	1374	7.3
STILLWATER	1918	1815	103	5.4
SWEET GRASS	1653	1582	71	4.3
TETON	2513	2407	106	4.2
TOOLE	2672	2574	98	3.7
TREASURE	366	353	13	3.6
VALLEY	4264	4018	246	5.8
WHEATLAND	1013	979	34	3.4
WIBAUX	687	674	13	1.9

TABLE IX-B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
NOVEMBER 1980

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	362723	341787	20941	5.8
CASCADE	32751	30303	2448	7.5
[illegible]	54677	52433	2244	4.1
BEAVERHEAD	3803	3698	105	2.8
[illegible]	6230	5822	408	6.5
BLAINE	2973	2737	236	7.9
BROADWATER	1530	1453	77	5.0
CARBON	2954	2853	101	3.4
CARTER	737	727	10	1.4
CHOUTEAU	2714	2653	61	2.2
CUSTER	6051	5802	249	4.1
DANIELS	1269	1244	25	2.0
DAWSON	5480	5346	134	2.4
DEER LODGE	5163	4287	876	17.0
FALLON	2365	2315	50	2.1
FERGUS	5831	5570	261	4.5
FLATHEAD	24580	22761	1819	7.4
GALLATIN	18714	17796	918	4.9
GARFIELD	709	692	17	2.4
GLACIER	5141	4635	506	9.8
GOLDEN VALLEY	333	329	9	2.7
GRANITE	973	897	76	7.8
HILL	8710	8287	423	4.9
JEFFERSON	2143	2012	131	6.1
JUDITH BASIN	1003	969	39	3.9
LAKE	8056	7484	572	7.1
LEWIS AND CLARK	23433	22339	1094	4.7
LIBERTY	1042	1013	29	2.8
LINCOLN	7308	6529	779	10.7
MCCONE	1107	1084	23	2.1
MADISON	2209	2086	123	5.6
MEAGHER	1113	1071	42	3.8
MINERAL	1977	1831	146	7.4
MISSOULA	36999	34647	2352	6.4
MUSSELSHELL	1920	1886	34	1.8
PARK	5584	5246	338	6.1
PETROLEUM	287	277	10	3.5
PHILLIPS	2858	2749	109	3.8
PONDERA	3348	3226	122	3.6
POWDER RIVER	1059	1040	19	1.8
POWELL	2992	2820	172	5.7
PRAIRIE	726	689	37	5.1
RAVALLI	8150	7296	854	10.5
RICHLAND	5847	5769	78	1.3
ROOSEVELT	5368	5090	278	5.2
ROSEBUD	4416	4173	243	5.5
SANDERS	3650	3400	250	6.8
SHERIDAN	2898	2867	31	1.1
SILVER BOW	17994	16623	1371	7.6
STILLWATER	1950	1904	46	2.4
SWEET GRASS	1709	1664	45	2.6
TETON	2547	2470	77	3.0
TOOLE	2699	2610	89	3.3
TREASURE	384	374	10	2.6
VALLEY	4356	4165	191	4.4
WHEATLAND	1159	1017	142	12.3
WIBAUX	740	728	12	1.6

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:		Total	Percent Women	Total	Perce Wome
	Dec. 1980 1/	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1980		Nov. 1980	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	133.9	133.2	132.7	.7	1.2	282.0	47.5	283.2	47.1
Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.2	0	-.2	23.6	12.7	23.9	12.6
Mining	.5	.5	.4	0	.1	7.8	6.4	6.7	7.5
Contract Construction	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	.1	14.1	10.6	16.3	9.2
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.4	4.4	4.4	0	0	23.2	19.0	23.2	19.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	36.6	36.1	37.2	.5	-.6	72.7	50.3	72.2	50.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.4	8.3	8.4	.1	0	12.9	65.1	12.8	64.8
Services	34.9	34.7	35.2	.2	-.3	56.2	62.1	56.0	62.0
Government 2/	44.6	44.6	42.5	0	2.1	71.5	62.4	71.7	62.2

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1979 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 197
2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.
Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

1979

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Non-agricultural Wage & Salary.	126.7	122.4	124.2	126.5	128.1	129.1	127.7	128.5	130.4	130.3	132.6	132.7	128.2
Manufacturing.....	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2
Mining.....	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction.....	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.5
Transport. & Public Utilities..	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	38.7	35.6	35.7	35.7	36.5	36.8	36.3	36.9	37.0	36.9	36.8	37.2	36.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate...	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4
Services.....	35.0	34.8	35.0	34.7	35.0	34.9	34.1	34.3	34.7	35.1	35.3	35.2	34.8
Government.....	35.7	34.8	36.2	38.8	38.9	38.9	38.7	38.8	40.3	39.9	42.5	42.5	38.8

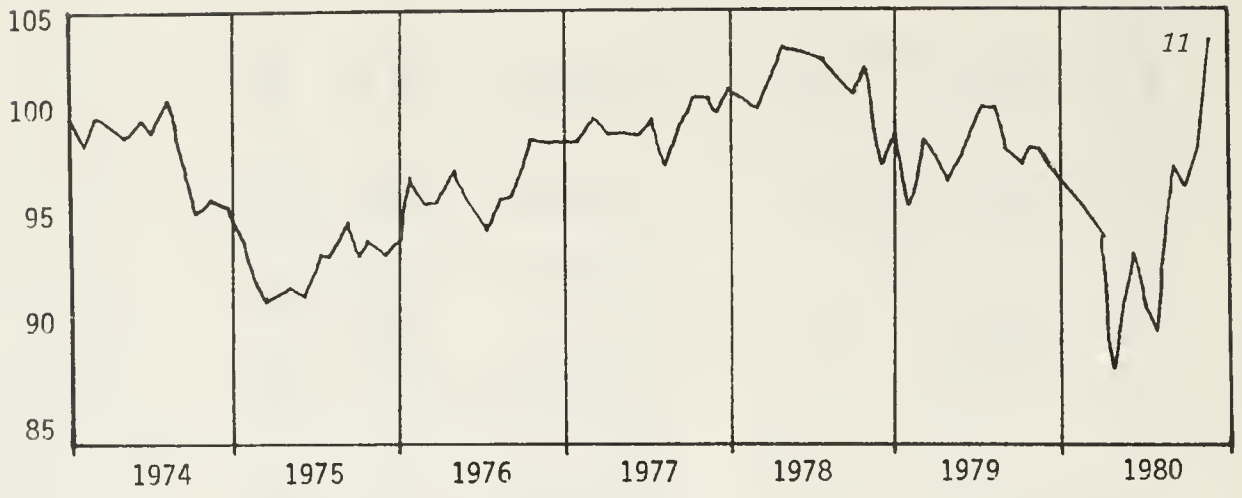
1980

Non-agricultural Wage & Salary.	133.0	132.9	130.9	129.4	129.5	134.0	128.7	129.8	130.5	132.6	132.1	133.2	133.9
Manufacturing.....	3.4	3.3	3.3	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Mining.....	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Contract Construction.....	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Transport. & Public Utilities..	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	36.5	36.5	35.6	35.7	36.0	35.9	36.2	36.1	35.9	35.9	36.0	36.1	36.6
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate...	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4
Services.....	36.2	36.2	34.3	34.5	34.1	37.2	37.2	34.2	34.1	34.5	34.5	34.7	34.9
Government.....	42.5	42.5	43.1	41.9	42.1	43.3	37.6	41.7	42.9	43.8	44.0	44.6	44.6

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. *Establishment Series began January, 1974.* *Revised to 1979 Benchmark.*

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS



MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

Due to the unseasonably warm weather, four of the components of the Composite Index registered positive movement during November. A Composite Index of 103.2 is the highest computed since January, 1972. Negative movement was seen in only two components. Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours dropped from 44.9 to 42.2, and Building Permits dropped from 564 to 501. The main reason for the rise in the Composite Index was the decline in both the Manufacturing Layoff Rate and Average Weekly Initial Claims. With the seasonal adjustment, the layoff rate dropped from 0.9 to a negative 0.3, and claims dropped from 1540 in October to 975 in November.

MONTHLY FIGURES
of COMPOSITE INDEX

1979	
January	96.1
February	98.6
March	*98.2*
April	*96.4*
May	98.5
June	100.4
July	*100.3*
August	*98.9*
September	*98.4*
October	99.2
November	*98.5*
December	*97.8*

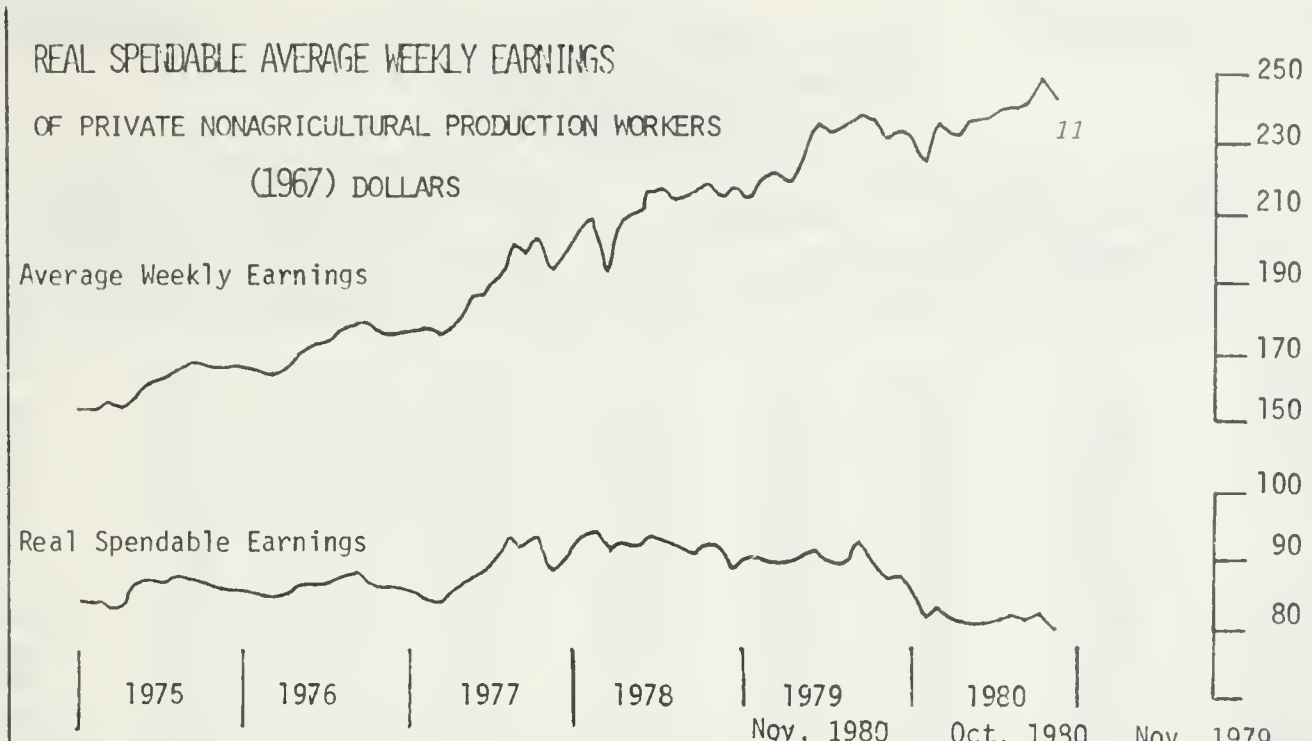
1980	
January	*96.7*
February	*95.6*
March	*95.1*
April	*88.6*
May	**94.6**
June	*92.6*
July	*90.2*
August	98.0
September	*96.8*
October	98.5
November	*103.2*

Components of Composite Index

Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits; and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.*

*** Figures in italics indicate declines from previous month.*



	Nov. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1979
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	241.89	246.66	230.62
3/ Taxes Withheld	38.58	39.93	33.15
Spendable Earnings	203.31	206.73	197.46
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	124.02	125.36	110.71
Real Spendable Earnings	79.29	81.37	86.23

	1) Average Weekly Earnings	2) Real Spendable Earnings
1979		
July	233.87	89.41
Aug.	234.99	88.73
Sept.	238.74	91.96
Oct.	236.90	89.02
Nov.	230.62	86.23
Dec.	233.24	86.12
1980		
Jan.	232.60	84.36
Feb.	224.93	80.79
Mar.	234.24	82.44
Apr.	232.23	80.94
May	234.15	80.67
June	234.97	80.02
July	238.82	81.08
Aug.	239.47	80.75
Sept.	241.60	80.63
Oct.	246.66	81.37
Nov.	241.89	79.29

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

After rising by $5.00 in October, gross earnings dropped back down in November to $241.89. This is a decrease of $4.77 from October to November. It seems that as gross earnings go up, real spendable average weekly earnings go down, due to the continuing rise of the Consumer Price Index.

September's gross earnings totaled $241.60, and the real spendable earnings figured to $80.63. November had real spendable earnings of $79.29, even though gross earnings were slightly higher than that of September. November, 1979 had gross earnings of $230.62, yet real spendable earnings of $86.23 were considerably higher than those of November, 1980. Real spendable earnings are not expected to rise from November to December.

** Indicates last month of plotted data*
1/ Average Weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.
2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.
3/ Taxes computed on family with four exemptions.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1979								
January	370.3	346.8	314.1	32.7	23.5	*6.4*	*5.8*	*
February	368.4	347.5	314.8	32.7	20.9	*5.7*	*5.7*	1.8
March	366.8	347.3	314.7	32.6	19.5	*5.3*	*5.7*	*
April	367.9	347.6	315.2	32.4	20.3	*5.5*	*5.8*	*
May	370.5	351.1	318.9	32.2	19.4	*5.2*	*5.8*	*
June	371.5	352.9	320.8	32.1	18.6	*5.0*	*5.7*	*
July	368.7	350.0	318.1	31.9	18.7	*5.1*	*5.7*	*
August	368.0	350.7	318.9	31.8	17.3	*4.7*	*5.9*	*
September	369.9	352.8	320.9	31.9	17.1	*4.6*	*5.8*	*
October	372.2	354.9	322.9	32.0	17.3	*4.7*	*5.9*	*
November	372.5	355.4	323.4	32.0	17.1	*4.6*	*5.8*	*
December	373.5	355.1	323.0	32.1	18.4	*4.9*	*5.9*	*
Avg.	370.0	351.0	318.8	32.2	19.0	*5.1*	*5.8*	.2
1980								
January	370.3	348.4	316.3	32.1	21.9	*5.9*	*6.2*	*
February	374.1	353.1	321.1	32.0	21.0	*5.6*	*6.2*	1.1
March	377.8	357.1	325.3	31.8	20.7	*5.5*	*6.3*	.7
April	377.5	353.0	321.5	31.5	24.5	*6.5*	*6.9*	.3
May	376.8	355.1	323.7	31.4	21.7	*5.8*	*7.6*	.2
June	377.2	355.1	324.0	31.1	22.1	*5.9*	*7.5*	.2
July	370.5	345.9	315.0	30.9	24.6	*6.6*	*7.6*	2.7
August	369.2	346.7	315.9	30.8	22.5	*6.1*	*7.6*	3.1
September	366.3	343.3	312.2	31.1	23.0	*6.3*	*7.4*	3.1
October	367.2	344.2	312.9	31.3	23.0	*6.3*	*7.6*	1.3
November	369.7	347.4	316.0	31.4	22.3	*6.0*	*7.5*	1.3
December	*368.8*	*345.9*	*314.4*	*31.5*	*22.9*	*6.2*	*7.4*	*
Avg.	372.1	349.6	318.2	31.4	22.5	*6.1*		1.2
1981								
January								
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1979								
January	34.6	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.7	7.8	6.4	*
February	34.7	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.5	7.2	5.7	*
March	34.2	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.2	6.5	5.3	*
April	34.3	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.3	6.7	5.5	*
May	34.2	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.2	6.4	5.2	*
June	34.3	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.0	*
July	34.2	32.1	30.8	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.1	*
August	33.8	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.0	5.9	4.7	*
September	33.7	31.8	20.5	1.3	1.9	5.5	4.6	*
October	33.5	31.7	30.4	1.3	1.8	5.3	4.7	*
November	33.5	31.7	30.4	1.3	1.8	5.4	4.6	*
December	33.4	31.6	30.3	1.3	1.8	5.5	4.9	*
Avg.	34.0	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.1	*
1980								
January	33.3	31.0	29.7	1.3	2.3	6.8	5.9	*
February	33.6	31.4	30.1	1.3	2.2	6.6	5.6	*
March	33.8	31.7	30.4	1.3	2.1	6.0	5.5	*
April	33.7	31.3	30.1	1.2	2.4	7.1	6.5	*
May	33.6	31.4	30.2	1.2	2.2	6.5	5.8	.2
June	33.5	31.3	30.1	1.2	2.2	6.6	5.9	.2
July	33.9	31.3	30.3	1.2	2.6	7.8	6.6	.5
August	33.3	30.9	29.7	1.2	2.4	7.2	6.1	.4
September	33.0	30.7	29.5	1.2	2.3	7.1	6.3	.4
October	32.4	29.8	28.6	1.2	2.6	8.0	6.3	*
November	32.7	30.2	29.0	1.2	2.5	7.6	6.0	*
December	32.8	30.3	29.1	1.2	2.5	7.7	6.2	*
Avg.	33.3	30.9	29.7	1.2	2.4	7.1	6.1	.1
1981								
January								
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1979								
January	54.8	52.2	50.7	1.5	2.6	4.8	6.4	*
February	54.7	52.4	50.9	1.5	2.3	4.2	5.7	*
March	54.5	52.4	50.9	1.5	2.1	3.9	5.3	*
April	55.0	52.9	51.4	1.5	2.1	3.9	5.5	*
May	55.3	53.2	51.7	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.2	*
June	55.2	53.3	51.8	1.5	1.9	3.4	5.0	*
July	55.9	53.9	52.4	1.5	2.0	3.5	5.1	*
August	55.8	53.9	52.4	1.5	1.9	3.3	4.7	*
September	55.5	53.7	52.2	1.5	1.8	3.3	4.6	*
October	55.5	53.7	52.2	1.5	1.8	3.2	4.7	*
November	55.9	54.0	52.5	1.5	1.9	3.5	4.6	*
December	55.8	53.9	52.4	1.5	1.9	3.4	4.9	*
Avg.	55.3	53.3	51.8	1.5	2.0	3.7	5.1	*
1980								
January	56.6	54.1	52.6	1.5	2.5	4.4	5.9	*
February	57.5	54.8	53.3	1.5	2.7	4.7	5.6	.7
March	58.1	55.4	53.9	1.5	2.7	4.7	5.5	.3
April	57.4	54.7	53.3	1.4	2.7	4.6	6.5	*
May	57.0	54.5	53.1	1.4	2.5	4.4	5.8	*
June	57.2	54.5	53.1	1.4	2.7	4.7	5.9	*
July	57.1	54.1	52.7	1.4	3.0	5.2	6.6	*
August	56.2	53.5	52.1	1.4	2.7	4.9	6.1	*
September	54.6	51.8	50.4	1.4	2.8	5.1	6.3	*
October	53.9	51.3	49.9	1.4	2.6	4.9	6.3	*
November	54.6	52.2	50.8	1.4	2.4	4.5	6.0	*
December	54.3	51.8	50.4	1.4	2.5	4.6	6.2	*
Avg.	56.2	53.6	52.2	1.4	2.6	4.7	6.1	.1
1981								
January								
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1980
TOTAL PRIVATE	$243.76	$241.89	$233.24	36.6	37.1	37.2	6.66	6.52	6.27
MANUFACTURING	377.97	372.20	389.40	43.0	42.2	44.3	8.79	8.82	8.79
Durable Goods	400.45	393.12	419.52	44.2	43.2	45.6	9.06	9.10	9.20
Primary Metal Industries	415.90	448.57	442.88	35.7	37.6	41.9	11.65	11.93	10.57
Nondurable Goods	337.42	335.34	336.38	40.8	40.5	42.1	8.27	8.28	7.99
Food and Kindred Products	273.37	269.60	267.62	40.5	40.0	43.8	6.75	6.74	6.11
MINING	450.91	438.89	448.88	45.5	45.2	47.4	9.91	9.71	9.47
Metal Mining	400.03	446.49	457.46	36.3	36.3	39.2	11.02	12.30	11.67
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	413.89	411.86	353.86	41.0	40.9	35.6	10.09	10.07	9.94
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	364.93	364.93	324.36	43.6	43.6	40.8	8.37	8.37	7.95
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	416.86	416.50	346.60	49.1	49.0	44.9	8.49	8.50	7.71
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	185.08	188.91	185.60	32.3	34.1	35.9	5.73	5.54	5.17
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	165.04	166.07	156.37	34.1	34.1	33.2	4.84	4.87	4.71
SERVICES	155.38	155.75	147.22	34.3	35.0	34.0	4.53	4.45	4.33

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).

TABLE XVI

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATES									SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Recalls			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Nov. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1979	Nov. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1979	Nov. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1979	Nov. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1979	Nov. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1979	Nov. 1980	Oct. 1980	Nov. 1979
MANUFACTURING	3.7	6.0	2.0	1.6	5.3	1.6	2.1	0.7	0.3	4.4	2.3	5.8	2.7	1.5	1.6	0.9	0.6	3.1
Durable Goods	4.1	3.4	1.0	0.7	2.2	0.5	3.4	1.1	0.4	1.9	1.5	6.0	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.3	4.1
Primary Metal Industries	0.3	1.1	1.1	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6	1.5	3.9	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.1
Nondurable Goods	3.0	10.0	4.0	3.0	9.9	3.7	0.0	0.1	0.1	8.2	3.5	5.5	5.6	2.3	3.6	2.3	1.1	1.4
MINING	7.5	0.2	12.9	7.1	0.2	11.8	0.0	0.0	1.1	5.9	0.0	8.2	3.3	0.0	7.4	2.2	0.0	0.4
Metal Mining	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

* *Less than .05.*

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggrigate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year. Foreign corporation classification has been added and are considered established corporations from other states registered to do business in Montana. County tabulation is not possible, only industry structure is known.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Year to Date 1980	Year to Date 1979
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	26	32	333	391
MINING	39	36	489	313
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	37	39	559	760
MANUFACTURING	8	15	236	266
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	16	27	222	256
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	112	105	1376	1269
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	61	30	499	462
SERVICES	121	90	1594	1481
NON-PROFIT SERVICES	(32)	(10)	(454)	(260)
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	0	19	125	171
STATE TOTAL	420	393	5433	5369

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Year to Date 1980	1979
STATE OF MONTANA	420	393	5433	5369
GREAT FALLS SMSA	32	25	353	352
BILLINGS SMSA	56	65	727	821
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS AND/OR MULTI-COUNTY	60	40	77	(320) May-Dec.
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	25	28	341	331
Beaverhead	7	5	60	54
Deer Lodge	4	0	26	29
Granite	1	0	17	17
Madison	0	3	41	42
Powell	1	1	37	18
Silver Bow	12	19	160	171
BOZEMAN LMA	31	33	408	421
Gallatin	23	26	326	329
Meagher	1	2	16	9
Park	7	5	66	83
GLASGOW LMA	16	14	154	194
Daniels	1	1	9	12
Phillips	2	1	29	37
Roosevelt	7	5	49	48
Sheridan	2	4	30	44
Valley	4	3	37	53
GLENDIVE LMA	20	18	282	338
Dawson	11	4	78	92
Garfield	0	2	4	12
McCone	1	2	26	24
Prairie	0	0	12	7
Richland	8	9	156	195
Wibaux	0	1	6	8
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	8	4	122	153
Big Horn	3	1	35	57
Carbon	2	2	42	52
Stillwater	2	1	28	30
Sweet Grass	1	0	17	14

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Year to Date 1980	1979
HAVRE LMA	14	8	154	152
Blaine	3	2	47	23
Hill	10	5	94	112
Liberty	1	1	13	17
HELENA LMA	31	21	340	383
Broadwater	1	3	18	29
Jefferson	2	4	24	33
Lewis and Clark	28	14	298	321
KALISPELL LMA	39	41	582	648
Flathead	27	25	396	423
Lake	7	12	100	113
Lincoln	5	4	86	112
LEWISTOWN LMA	4	7	111	113
Fergus	2	4	58	66
Golden Valley	0	0	3	5
Judith Basin	2	0	17	13
Musselshell	0	1	25	16
Petroleum	0	1	2	4
Wheatland	0	1	6	9
MILES CITY LMA	18	17	174	148
Carter	1	0	23	9
Custer	7	6	57	56
Fallon	0	1	38	30
Powder River	2	4	14	18
Rosebud	7	5	40	30
Treasure	1	1	2	5
MISSOULA LMA	46	44	657	752
Mineral	1	1	20	19
Missoula	31	28	468	538
Ravalli	13	9	134	140
Sanders	1	6	35	55
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	20	28	251	243
Choteau	5	5	50	37
Glacier	3	6	65	72
Pondera	3	3	36	47
Teton	2	2	32	21
Toole	7	12	68	66

Sources of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons: to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

ETA5-1593 DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
DECEMBER 1980

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	235	20,995.47
BIGHORN	535	46,364.28
BLAINE	264	24,917.13
BROADWATER	164	17,818.00
CARBON	204	19,998.36
CARTER	2	262.00
CASCADE	5,136	545,813.29
CHOUTEAU	87	8,947.32
CUSTER	343	33,170.18
DANIELS	22	2,151.00
DAWSON	153	13,423.18
DEER LODGE	2,575	292,546.45
FALLON	19	1,097.00
FERGUS	492	44,599.81
FLATHEAD	3,186	281,705.88
GALLATIN	1,894	162,437.09
GARFIELD	8	617.00
GLACIER	779	63,607.46
GOLDEN VALLEY	17	1,658.00
GRANITE	113	12,534.72
HILL	630	55,156.09
JEFFERSON	235	23,628.02
JUDITH BASIN	15	1,623.59
LAKE	942	81,137.58
LEWIS AND CLARK	1,967	174,227.35
LIBERTY	37	3,313.20
LINCOLN	1,208	112,995.02
MCCONE	9	747.00
MADISON	141	13,163.37
MEAGHER	95	8,642.78
MINERAL	275	26,750.36
MISSOULA	4,630	445,402.70
MUSSELSHELL	61	6,395.00
PARK	545	48,517.70
PETROLEUM	2	66.00
PHILLIPS	130	12,369.18
PONDERA	194	18,933.00
POWDER RIVER	6	726.00
POWELL	218	19,141.42
PRAIRIE	32	3,309.00
RAVALLI	1,258	114,664.50
RICHLAND	71	6,565.73
ROOSEVELT	249	20,705.67
ROSEBUD	387	41,249.45
SANDERS	586	53,630.43
SHERIDAN	23	2,147.00
SILVER BOW	2,559	249,308.08
STILLWATER	93	10,439.00
SWEET GRASS	79	8,508.00
TETON	143	14,430.00
TOOLE	168	15,939.00
TREASURE	3	293.00
VALLEY	277	25,975.95
WHEATLAND	17	1,751.00
WIBAUX	23	2,174.00
YELLOWSTONE		
INTRASTATE	37,709	3,639,703.06
INTERSTATE	1,868	184,762.06
TOTAL	39,577	3,824,465.12

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1980 THRU DECEMBER 1980

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	2,531	229,086.12
BIGHORN	4,813	406,384.59
BLAINE	3,315	288,417.46
BROADWATER	2,072	207,278.89
CARBON	2,962	232,034.37
CARTER	170	14,741.52
CASCADE	50,283	4,697,293.56
CHOUTEAU	982	96,366.32
CUSTER	3,563	317,019.13
DANIELS	275	22,257.26
DAWSON	2,155	198,476.29
DEER LODGE	13,225	1,314,262.02
FALLON	395	34,515.60
FERGUS	4,796	407,216.88
FLATHEAD	42,270	3,781,537.37
GALLATIN	21,901	1,924,015.53
GARFIELD	62	5,014.00
GLACIER	8,444	682,846.20
GOLDEN VALLEY	181	17,368.00
GRANITE	1,425	124,837.38
HILL	8,385	704,248.58
JEFFERSON	2,579	253,330.81
JUDITH BASIN	366	32,412.59
LAKE	10,591	905,048.86
LEWIS AND CLARK	21,379	1,942,782.61
LIBERTY	372	34,801.00
LINCOLN	25,050	2,394,173.79
MCCONE	195	13,683.00
MADISON	1,464	131,023.57
MEAGHER	809	70,063.16
MINERAL	4,375	436,147.62
MISSOULA	59,362	5,505,261.15
MUSSELSHELL	728	74,841.00
PARK	7,132	615,531.91
PETROLEUM	70	5,930.50
PHILLIPS	1,504	131,704.90
PONDERA	2,320	212,707.34
POWDER RIVER	254	25,403.00
POWELL	3,903	342,484.38
PRAIRIE	432	40,540.92
RAVALLI	15,651	1,368,945.58
RICHLAND	1,404	125,691.59
ROOSEVELT	2,973	237,249.37
ROSEBUD	4,195	394,133.61
SANDERS	8,344	810,443.78
SHERIDAN	355	29,444.00
SILVER BOW	26,943	2,408,836.43
STILLWATER	1,773	168,564.00
SWEET GRASS	582	56,763.37
TETON	1,586	145,639.58
TOOLE	1,993	186,991.23
TREASURE	131	13,518.00
VALLEY	4,069	363,569.19
WHEATLAND	221	18,975.65
WIBAUX	198	16,046.80
YELLOWSTONE	55,229	5,270,554.99
INTRASTATE	443,029	40,536,931.41
INTERSTATE	17,487	2,327,452.91
TOTAL	460,516	42,864,384.32

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1980	1979	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	55,417	45,720	9,697	21.2
Continued Claims[1/]	558,911	444,982	113,929	25.6
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	460,516	371,675	88,841	23.9
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$42,864,382	$31,384,180	11,480,202	36.6
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2/]	$97.89	$88.29	$9.60	10.9

MONTHLY

	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1980	Dec. 1979	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	5,599	3,250	5,332	267	5.0
Continued Claims[1/]	48,542	32,705	34,656	13,886	40.1
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	39,577	26,074	27,454	12,123	44.2
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$3,824,465	$2,479,297	$2,373,607	$1,450,858	61.1
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2/]	$103.41	$99.67	$90.52	$12.89	14.2
Trust Fund Balance	$18,477,642	$22,368,419	$15,905,477*	$2,572,165	16.2

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $7,084,089.*

This last month of the year 1980, the number of claims showed the greatest increase since April when large scale layoffs in various industries occurred. Over 2,300 more initial claims were counted in December than in November but only 267 more than in December 1979. Continued claims total of 48,542 this month exceeded last month and last year by about 15,800 and 13,800, respectively.

As usual in December, the number of benefit payments rose substantially from the previous month, this year 13,500 more. For the year to year comparison, over 12,000 more payments were made than last December. Almost $4 million was paid out in benefits; nearly $1.5 million over December 1979 and $1.3 million more than November.

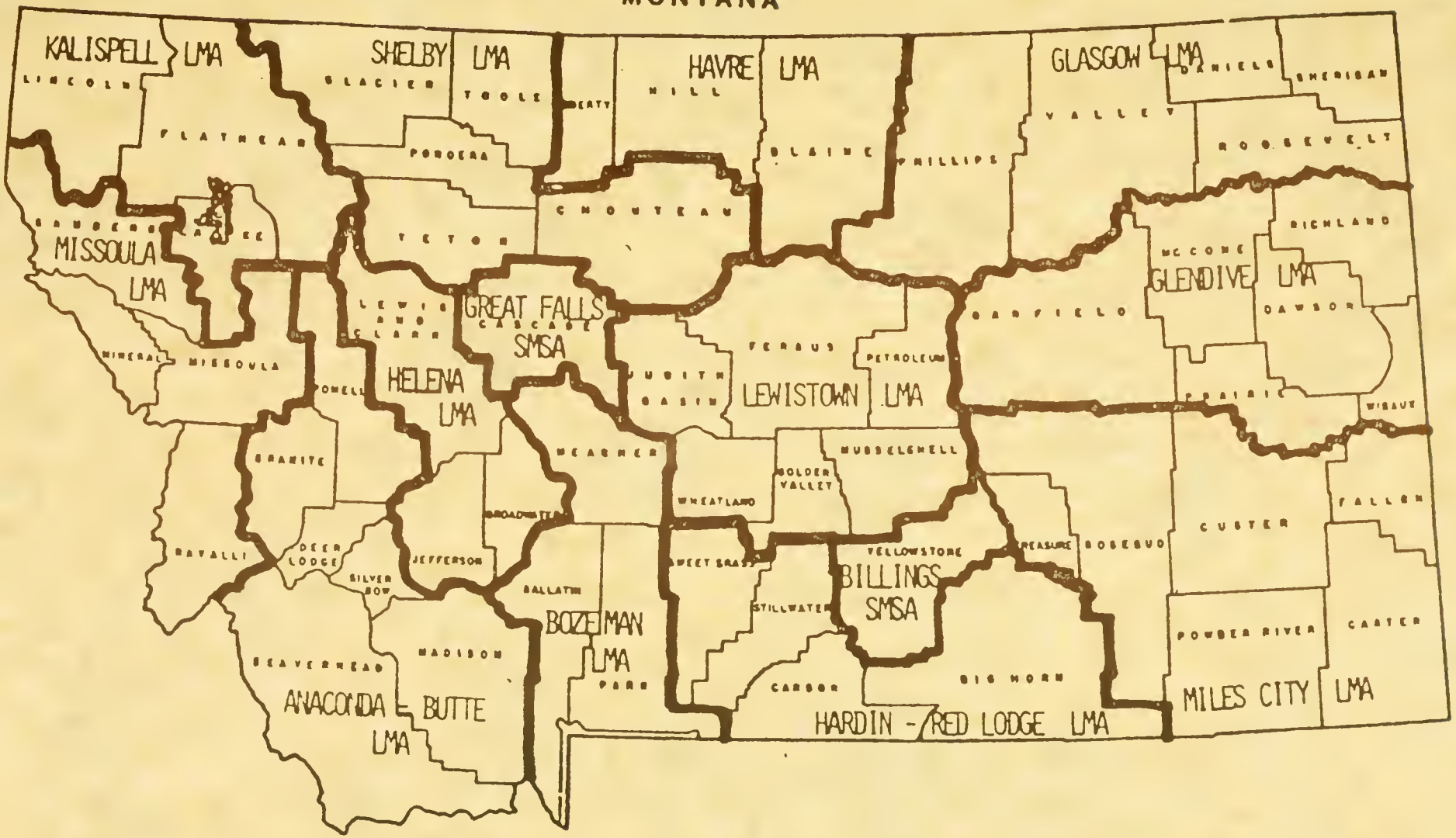
Average Weekly Benefit Amount climbed to $103.41 this month from $99.67 in November and $90.52 last December This amount is $5.50 above 1980 cumulative AWBA of $97.89. All items for the full year 1980 advanced from 1979 by 10.9% to 36.6%.

Trust Fund Balance dropped drastically from November but was still well ahead of a year ago The next few months should bring a further decline as winter continues. However, the fund should remain solvent, barring further economic downturn, as contributions come in and the seasonal decrease in benefits commences.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
OF MONTANA
P.O. BOX 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE $300

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BULK RATE

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 24 local Job Service offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.

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